

Women in Washington State and Nationally

The Need

While much has improved over the last three decades, women and girls continue to bear the burden of some of society's most pressing problems:

Nationally:

- Domestic violence is the single leading cause of injury for women.
- Of all women who work full-time, 45% do not have health insurance.

Washington State:

- Female-headed households are 3.5 times more likely to live below the poverty line than other types of households.
- Washington is lagging behind other states in the gender wage gap, with a ranking of 42 out of 50 states.
- In a recent study, 36% of Washington State 8th grade girls said they feel sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row.

Women's Funding Alliance Meeting the Need

The Women's Funding Alliance (WFA) is the only funding organization in the Puget Sound region devoted solely to investing in the lives of women and girls. Since its inception 23 years ago, WFA has distributed more than \$3.4 million to over 100 organizations, helping thousands of women and girls in our community. WFA invests in progressive, visionary and vibrant organizations working on the ground level to address issues around education and leadership, poverty, domestic violence, discrimination and reproductive freedom.

Impact for Women and Girls through King County Employees' Gifts

- \$4 per month provides interpretation for a one-hour consultation with a private attorney when a domestic violence survivor speaks limited English.
- \$10 per month provides transportation to Olympia for 10 domestic violence survivors to talk with legislators about changes needed in laws to protect their lives.
- \$20 per month makes it possible for us to answer calls for 1 month from 300 women and men throughout Washington State who seek help from a free legal Information and Referral telephone line.

Want to know more about how you can help these organizations? Talk to your Employee Giving Program Coordinator and ask for a catalog, or check out the Employee Giving Program website at www.metrokc.gov/giving. Remember, Giving Works!

Impact Continued...

- \$29 per month provides the incentive to keep 35 kids engaged in reading for the entire summer.
- \$50 per month provides free legal materials to 60 individuals who cannot afford lawyers.
- \$42 per month provides a first level business loan to a woman to help start her own business.
- \$42 per month pays for 15 women to attend a legislative training on how the legislative process works and their role in it. Training covers how a bill becomes a law, how to talk about issues with policy makers and having parents set up visits with their representatives.
- \$63 per month helps to train youth leaders on healthy teen relationships and prevention of dating violence.
- \$83 per month provides a training program for 40 clergy and lay leaders on how to effectively address the faith issues related to domestic violence.

Nonprofits doing work in this area:

Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services
Association for Women in Science – Seattle Chapter
BABES Network
Chaya
Dress for Success Seattle
Endometriosis Association
Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress
Jubilee Women's Center
King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
Kitsap Sexual Assault Center
NARAL Pro-Choice Washington Foundation
Northwest Women's Law Center
Passages Northwest
Planned Parenthood of Western Washington
Positive Women's Network
Powerful Voices
Refugee Women's Alliance
Residence XII
Seattle Girls' School
Snohomish County Center for Battered Women
Washington CASH
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Washington State NARAL Pro-Choice Foundation
Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition
Women's Housing, Equality and Enhancement League (WHEEL)
YWCA of Seattle/King County/Snohomish County